

REVIEW.

Saturday, August 30. 1712.

Given up to strong Delusions.—

Have Complain'd, as I think I had Reason, of the mutual Agreement of our Party Men on both Sides, in the notorious Practice of Lying: The Manufacture of Falshood, however other Trades may have decay'd in this Time of War, has improv'd to a wonderful degree; but pray, Neighbours, bear with me to tell you, we have another evil, which were we sensible of it, has something ill worse in it among us; and this, a dreadful Gust and Inclination in the People all over the Nation, to hear and receive the most palpable Forgeries, a willingness to be Deluded and Deceiv'd, and this, I think, is at a height it was never at before.

Lying is a private Crime, and lies particularly upon the Persons and People who are Guilty; but *Believing Lyes* is a National Judgment, a Humour that taints the whole Blood of the People: The first is a Disease, and like our New Distemper, Multitudes more than usual are Sick of it; but this is a Plague, a meer Visitation, that Rages over the whole Mass of the People, and so Universally is the Contagion spread, that not a Man of us that has the least bias to this or that Party, but is Infected with it.

It would be endless to recount the particular Discoveries of this Raging Distemper, and as unaccountable a Work would it be, to describe the Effects of it among us; how it supports Parties, maintains Faction, and keeps up Strife; nay, I do not know, but it is willingness to be impos'd upon, is the Foundation of the Encrease of Lying among us, and that no-body would *Lye*, if no-body would be wheedled, drawn in, and perswaded to believe the Lyes when told them.

So Universal is our Gust, to the pleasing Folly of being Deceiv'd, that such Lyes would never go down as former days, as are current now — When the Market is quick, the Trash always sells: This Humour of believing is grown to such a height now, that any Thing goes off; [the grossest Lyes that can be brought to Sale, never want a Market: What nauseous stuff has been drank by this whole Nation within these three Years last past, till both Sides having Encourag'd the Trade, a World of our poor are Employ'd by the Useful Manufacture, and at their Livelyhoods by Lying?

Nay, some are grown capital Dealers, and for their Excellency in the Faculty, might be chosen Aldermen of the City; To what Preferment has the Reverend Doctor arriv'd, by a most complicated Mass of Delusion? And yet had not the Plague of *Believing* been upon us, what length could his Poison have reached? What Age, but Ours, could have been impos'd upon, by such gross Scandalous, Ridiculous Stuff as the Dr's Sermon?

Unhappy is the Case of all our News-Writers at this Time, who are so prescrib'd by the Genius of the Day, that if any of them are modest, and cannot arrive to a necessary degree in the Art of Lying, it is no Paper for our Turn, the Man may e'en lay down, he may tell Thread-bare Truths as long as he pleases, but he will never get his Bread.

One Author was such an unfashionable Wretch, that he set Truth and Honesty upon his Frontispiece, and pretended to keep his Title; but what was the Consequence? Alas, what could be the Consequence! *why the Man broke*, what could you expect of one that had no more Wit than to be dress'd quite out of the Fashion?

Others wiser than he, took warning by his Example, and Conforming to the Times, are pretty well advanc'd, and now they have learn'd to *LYE*, they begin to please; what else has rais'd two of the most contemptible Papers in the Town? We know till this came on, they never made their Bread for some Years, and were every Day talking of laying down; but on a sudden, by Lying, are become the Darlings of the Party; nay, in their Contending Passions, our Authors mutually Agree in the Charge; poor *Abel* has the Vote of the whole Fraternity, that his Paper is not only capable of having one or two false Things in it, but is one Universal Lump of Falshood and Fiction; *Abel* lies back upon another, Recriminates and Christens him by way of Pun the *Lying-Post*; others Print false Stories, and support themselves, by charging them upon the Foreign Prints: And what is all this owing to, but the Gust of the Times; they must be buoy'd up, and have Pillows sew'd under their Elbows, as if the Nation had the Rheumatism and was to be slung in Pullies, to be hoisted up, and let down as there was occasion.

Being

Being thus, as we are a Nation of *Believers*, you cannot wonder if I expect you should have a formal Story handed to you from *Scotland*, about a great Confluence of People meeting in the *West*, and renewing the Covenant, Excommunicating sundry People, and among the rest, even the Parliament, the *Presbyterian* Ministers, and the Queen herself—And why should we make this strange? Do we not Excommunicate both Queen and Parliament, and *Presbyterians* every Day among us, both one Party and another, in our common Discourse?

But to return to the Fact; I cannot doubt, I say, but Mr. *Post-Boy*, from his constant Correspondents in the North, will have a long Account to give you, of this Meeting of the *Cameronians*, and that this Account shall be dress'd up in a form to please the *Believers* on his Side, viz. That at a *Field Meeting*, perhaps he may call it a Rebellion, *tho' by the Way, the poor People had no Arms*; a great Number of People, 8 or 9000 in Number, were Assembled; That their Meeting was for their Religious Worship, but that they Curst the Queen, the Parliament, &c. and much more, which the help of Art may put in, to Illustrate this Account.

Now that you may take every Thing with you, I shall let you know in the general, that the Fact is true, and that the poor Rash People have gone this length in their great Field Meeting for the Sacrament; in short, the Case is this, that as by the Effect of a Modern Step of Northern Politicks, we have raised an Old Devil, which good Men thought had been almost laid a long time ago, and the Raising this Devil, has been the Aim and Design of those People in *Scotland*, who have push'd at Dividing and Inflaming the People, and they have, in part, brought it to pass: But since Matters of this Consequence ought to be set in a true Light, and the false Representations of the Enemies of *Scotland*, anticipated by a true Account of Things, for that Reason I shall only prepare the World to hear the false Account, by first giving them a true state of the Fact, and when this is done, let them make their best of the Story.

1. *It is true*, that in the West of *Scotland*, there are still remaining a few, and God be praised, by the Revolution, and the Endeavours of the Establish'd *Presbyterian* Ministers in *Scotland*, they were brought to a very few, and those every day decreasing, of those People who were formerly call'd *Cameronians*, who always stood out from the Revolution Settlement, would never join with the Church, either in Communion, so much as hear their Ministers, or submit to either the Civil or Ecclesiastick Constitution—What the Differences are, on what Principles they act, and what the Dispute is, these are Things too long to enter on here, but I may give a particular of them hereafter: These People had but one Leader, viz. Mr. *Mac-Mellan*, and have since an Assistant, one Mr. *Mac-Neil*; the one an Ordain'd Minister, but Depos'd, the o-

ther not Ordain'd, and neither of them of any Character or Capacity, other than is peculiar to the happy People themselves.

2. *It is true*, and Undeniable, even the *Episcopal* Men in *Scotland* must own and acknowledge is, that the Establish'd Church of *Scotland*, viz. the *Presbyterians*, reject, disown, and discountenance these People, and are rejected and disown'd by them; that they have judicially, long ago, Depos'd said Mr. *Mac-Mellan*, from the Office of a Minister on the very Account of these Things; and they prov'd past any Reply; 1. *On the Kirk part*, by Records and judicial Process against him, and by many Acts and Synods of Assembly against him and Followers; and 2dly, *On their part*, by their denouncing and Excommunicating the Ministers of Church of *Scotland* in general, at the Time of the general Commination now spoken of.

3. *It is yet as true as all this*, that the late Imposition of Oaths, contrary to Principle, and, I think, (speaking my Conscience and Opinion only) expressly against the late Union, by which many Scandalous and Dissatisfied, tho' Good and Conscientious People, are driven to divide and separate from Establish'd *Presbyterian* Church in *Scotland*, has been a very great occasion of Increasing the Number these unhappy People, and consequently of all Disorders which may follow.

4. As to the Extravagancies of these poor People, their Excommunicating the Queen and the Parliament, and the Ministers of the Church—As these are the Effect of a mist judg'ment, and as there is nothing Formidable in the Power of Numbers of People, they seem to merit the Compassion and Mercy of the Government, rather than their Relentance, and it is hoped there may be other Ways to Redress them, than such Bloody Methods as were practis'd in the former Times; since it has been found, that Lenity, Forbearance, and Patience, has lessened their Numbers; whereas Persecution, Blood, Fire, and Dragoons, always Encreas'd them.

Let those then who are for calling Fire from Heaven upon these poor People, remember our Lord's monition, *Ye know not what Spirit ye are of*, and then consider, that every mistaken Opinion is immediately to be purged with Blood; let them move the Cause, and take off the Impediments, Encroachments on the Conscience of these poor People, and the Thing will die of itself, the Fire go out, and the People will return, of course to Peace and Duty: If there are any, who desire wicked Purposes, to Animate this People, and to put this Fire into a National Flame and Conflagration, that they may have an Occasion thereby, to throw and destroy the Constitution of *Scotland*, his Glory, whose Face is a flame of Fire, and who is King and Head of the Church, Overthrow and destroy them. *Amen.*